METHODIST Peace Courier

...not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit...

Westminster Theological Seminary Library

Vol. 3, Number 2 June 1957

1957: YEAR OF DECISION IN DISARMAMENT

The year 1957 is a year of great darkness and great light. We have in our possession or on the drawing boards, weapons whose destructive capacity exceeds the four horsemen of the Book of Revelation. At the same time we are hearing a breakthrough in international disarmament. The current conferences in London of the United Nations subcommittee will probably give us a first step toward universal disarmament. So the ancient prophecies of Isaiah and Micah may be fulfilled in our time: swords will be beaten into plowshares and men will sit unafraid under fig trees!

Disarmament deals with our own welfare and security, for who of us does not shudder at the thought of one atomic bomb destroying an entire American city? Testimony before a Congressional committee indicated the possibility of 200,000,000 deaths in Europe, if during an atomic attack the wind blew in the wrong direction!

But from a Christian point of view it is more serious than our own physical survival. It is a matter of the survival of our faith! Can a Christian airman release a bomb which will destroy a city the size of Nineveh, a city upon which God had mercy, although Jonah did not? Can Christian physicists and engineers participate in the discovery and manufacture of missiles carrying atomic warheads? (Some German physicists have recently said "No!") Can we damn to leukemia, cancer, and malformation our descendants for ten thousand years because we loosed the terrible radioactive elements upon the surface of God's earth?

The Narrowing Gap

Despite the impression given by the popular press, which speaks of atomic weapons and missiles as if they were dime store gadgets of which we are proud, the nations of the world have been moving toward agreement on disarmament measures during the last ten years. The gap on this issue between the East and the West has narrowed greatly.

In 1946 the chief disarmament proposal of the United States was the Baruch Plan, by which all atomic energy facilities in the world would be owned, operated, and controlled by an international agency. Russia protested that this would mean international control of atomic power plants within the borders of nations. This is now our position; we have given up the Baruch Plan.

About 1948 the Russians urged as a first step toward disarmament the abolition of all atomic bombs. We resisted this measure because it would give too great an advantage to them. Now, Russian proposals do not include the destruction of atomic weapons as a first measure. In this they have moved toward our position.

In the early part of this decade, the United States proposed a ceiling of 1,500,000 on the armed forces of Russia, China, and the United States. At first, Russia reacted unfavorably, but during the last year has accepted this figure. (It is ironic that we have now shifted our position and favor a ceiling of 2,500,000!)

In 1955 when President Eisenhower proposed aerial inspection, the Russians were hesitant. Recently in the London Conference they proposed that this kind of inspection should be tried in Siberia, Alaska, and western United States. Both Bulganin and Eisenhower have agreed upon inspection teams to be stationed at key military and transportation centers.

AVAILABLE

REVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 11TH UN ASSEMBLY SESSION, a 4-page reprint from The New York Times. Send 5¢ for a sample copy; quantity rates on request.

Methodist Peace Courier
Published by the
GENERAL BOARD OF WORLD PEACE
of The Methodist Church
740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Ill.
Subscription rates: $1.00 for ten issues; 60¢ per subscription when ordered in bundles of five or more to one address.

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STOP THE BOMB TESTS!

The 1956 General Conference of The Methodist Church was more far-sighted and prophetic than it realized when it adopted the following statement on the testing of atomic weapons: "Because of possible deleterious hereditary effects of atomic radiation and the reported miscalculations on a previous hydrogen bomb test, we urge discontinuance of nuclear explosions by all nations and recommend, instead, the further development of atomic energy for peaceful uses."

Since that day in May 1956, this issue has been highlighted in the presidential election campaign, has been the subject of many studies and statements by scientists and governments, and has become one of the major questions to occupy public attention around the world.

Japan, whose people were the target of the only two A-bombs ever used in warfare, has been the scene of great public anxiety and of vociferous demonstrations by huge crowds against further testing of atomic and hydrogen weapons. There is sound reason as well as emotion behind this deep concern of the Japanese.

The American Pacific tests of March 1954 involved an H-bomb explosion of unexpected magnitude and fall-out. This seriously affected the crew of a Japanese fishing vessel well outside the declared danger zone, resulting in one death, many injuries, and untold millions of dollars damage to the Japanese fishing industry which was forced to destroy huge quantities of contaminated fish for some time thereafter.

The Russian tests have caused considerable radioactive fall-out over Japan. At least one of these explosions apparently surprised Russian scientists as only this spring the people of northern China were warned to take steps to decontaminate their vegetables and avoid possible injury.

Twice the Japanese Diet has passed unanimously resolutions calling for an end to all testing of nuclear weapons. Petitions directed to the same purpose have been signed by more than 30,000,000 persons. Official representatives of the Japanese government have presented this urgent request in person to the leaders of other nations.

While the Japanese people may have special reasons for their great concern, an increasing number of persons in other lands are speaking out on the subject. Eighteen of the leading nuclear physicists of West Germany warned against the danger of atomic weapons, stating their belief that West Germany could best defend itself and world peace without such weapons, and declaring that none of them would participate in the production, testing, or use of such weapons.

A special committee set up by the British Atomic Scientists Association to study radiation hazards reported in April a tentative estimate that the explosion of a hydrogen bomb high in the atmosphere may produce in the course of a few decades as many as 50,000 cases of bone cancer throughout the world. Nobel prize-winner Dr. Linus Pauling of the California Institute of Technology has estimated that as many as 10,000 fatal cases of leukemia have resulted or will result around the world from the tests already conducted.

In his appeal to the nations of the world, Dr. Albert Schweitzer asserted that the reason America, Russia and Britain had not yet been able to agree on ending the tests was the lack of an informed and concerned public opinion.

The following statements can definitely be made without fear of contradiction:

1. Any amount of radiation, however small, is harmful to the heredity of man because it induces adverse mutations.

2. Strontium 90 is a serious threat because it is concentrated in food plants and animals and ultimately in human bone, and its radioactivity persists for many years.

3. Although the adverse effects are spread over the entire population of the world through a period of decades and are virtually impossible to measure statistically, they are nonetheless real and serious.

Two moral questions are immediately involved. Does any nation have the right to conduct weapons tests which are bound to injure the people of other nations around the world? Are the political leaders of America, Russia, and Britain justified in continuing these tests on the grounds that no measurable damage is being done when we know that thousands of human beings are suffering or will suffer tragic consequences?

"The Short Vision," startling seven-minute sound film on the explosion of a nuclear missile over a metropolitan area, which Ed Sullivan has twice included in his Sunday night TV program, is available from Film Center, Inc. 64 W. Randolph Street, Chicago 1, Ill., for a rental of $7.50.

A LETTER TO THE SENATE, PLEASE!

It appears that Congress is wrangling so ong and heatedly about the budget that great nd good causes are in jeopardy. An important roposal, supported both by the administration nd church bodies, is in danger of mortal neg-ect.

Do you recall the enthusiasm with which he nation and the world greeted the Presi-ent's address on "Atoms for Peace" before the N Assembly in 1953? It was correctly believed hat this proposal was a milestone in U.S. his-ory, a positive and peaceful idea which would learly put Russia on the defensive.

Now our sincerity in this matter is being ested. The Eleventh Assembly of the UN ap-roved unanimously the International Atomic nergy Agency (IAEA). However, before it can xist the Statute must be ratified by the egislative bodies of at least 18 states (in-luding three of the Big Five). Guatemala eposited its papers of ratification on March), Switzerland on April 2, and the U.S.S.R. nd Byelorussia on April 8.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee be-an its hearings on the Statute the second week f May. After a conference with the President, enators Knowland and Hickenlooper affirmed hat they had "come to no final conclusion" bout ratification. Senator Knowland added hat he hoped that at the end of hearings and ebate the Statute would be so clarified with reservations or otherwise" that it would e approved. (A 2/3 vote is required.)

Why the hesitation? Because it will be nother give-away program? Because the U.S. ould do it bilaterally rather than having the N operate the program? Because some of the uclear material might go to communist na-ions? Because IAEA might cost us too much? ecause Red China might be admitted to the AEA? Shades of Woodrow Wilson and Henry abot Lodge!

On May 20, Dr. Charles Boss testified be-ore the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in avor of the ratification of the Statute. As he COURIER went to press, he sent the follow-ng message:

"Predict Senate Ratification of Interna-ional atomic Energy Agency statute by substan-ial majority when treaty comes before Senate. eports following hearings indicate some mod-ration in views of certain senators. IAEA een as method of raising living standards hroughout world and likely to improve inter-ational relations."

WHO WANTS DISARMAMENT?

Everybody wants peace; who wants disarmament? Instinctively the common people of the world desire peace and security but the mistrust and fear across the world make each nation and its citizenry hesitant of first steps toward disarmament and cautious lest they be disadvantaged thereby.

Small nations and minor powers not only want disarmament; they tremble lest major powers engulf them in war, while buffer states realize they are expendable battlegrounds of any extensive conflict.

The Soviets?

Now that the U.S.S.R. after a long stalemate on the problem seems ready for serious and positive steps, do they really want disarmament? There is evidence that the Soviet leaders feel the weight of armaments burdens, satellite unrest, and increasing consumer demand for the goods and benefits of a stable society. There is enough peace interest among the Soviets to make careful negotiation relevant.

The Americans?

When Albert Schweitzer's great peace appeal to the world, warning of radioactive fallout from atomic tests, was released in fifty nations, no American paper carried the complete text and, unlike other countries, the full message was not broadcast in our land.

Achievements in real disarmament involve some major related problems. Do we, for example, envision the expansion of trade, economic and technical aid to underdeveloped lands on such a scale that war pressures will diminish? Are workers in factories, now engaged in the production of weapons, willing to experience inconvenience, or loss of pay, or insecurity which disarmament might bring temporarily? Are we spiritually mature enough to keep working at the goal of a warless world when the ideal of universal disarmament will taunt us in contrast to the slow, step-by-step disarmament which is all that existing conditions will permit as a practical achievement.

Most of all, do we Christians clearly distinguish between "peace" and "security"? Too many among us desire a safe and guaranteed assurance and security from the hazards of living. Upon the determination of such a choice, real progress for disarmament inevitably depends.

Since 1955 the President has been urging passage of a bill authorizing U.S. membership in the ORGANIZATION FOR TRADE COOPERATION, a UN agency for the cultivation of international agreements on trade and tariffs. It deserves our support. It deserves the vote of your Congressman. It deserves a letter from you to him now. Last year the House Ways and Means Committee approved it, but the measure never came to a vote on the floor because an informal poll showed overwhelming G.O.P. opposition to it. We urge letters now, especially to the following members of the House Ways and Means Committee: Reed (NY), Jenkins (Ohio), Simpson (Pa.) Kean (NJ), Mason (Ill.), Holmes (Wash.), Byrnes (Wis.), Sadlak (Conn.), Baker (Tenn.), Curtis (Mo.).

RESOURCES FOR PEACE WORKERS

A PEACE ACTION MANUAL

An attractive 12-page Annual Conference Work Manual for Peace Action in the Local Church has just been published by the California-Nevada Conference Board of World Peace, Rev. John R. Wilkins, chairman. The table of contents indicates the scope: Motives for Seeking Peace; Nature of the Peace We Seek; Causes of War; Costs of War and Militarism; Areas of Action -- Myself; My Church; My Nation; Our Christian Heritage; The Methodist Church Speaks on War and Peace; Christian Dedication to Peace; Bibliography and Resources.

While no price is quoted, it is probable that single copies may be obtained at cost by writing Mr. Wilkins at 83 McAllister St., San Francisco 3, California.

"Terrific" "Tremendous" -- Do Track Down

THE SATURDAY REVIEW issues for May 18 and 25 featuring the complete text of the Schweitzer statement on the dangers of atomic radiation; report of conversations between Dr. Schweitzer and editor Norman Cousins, who first suggested such a statement to Dr. Schweitzer -- the Nobel Peace Committee in Oslo provided the auspices for its release to the peoples of the world; the text of the public letter by Dr. Willard F. Libby of the Atomic Energy Commission; and a commentary on the two statements by American scientist Harrison Brown.

AND NOTE ....

This office will have copies of the SCHWEITZER STATEMENT, either from The New York Times or the Saturday Review. Send 5¢ for sample and information on quantity rates.

A Study Tour of Africa

will be lead from June 29 to August 23 by Dr. Darrell Randall and Mrs. Mildred Randall, under the sponsorship of the Association for World Travel Exchange. This is an opportunity not only to learn about Africa's challenging frontiers for the future, but to come to know personally some of the key leaders of that continent.

For information on the tour, or to receive copies of the 1957 Randall Africa-Asia Letter Reports (personal experiences and current impressions of the latest developments in each country visited -- $1.00) write to the Randalls, 9008 Edmunds Ave., Cleveland 6, Ohio.

A Petite Personal

for Debra Ann Will, who arrived on May 16. Father Herman Will can now exult: "We are seven!"

PRIZE PEACE PAMPHLET PACKAGE At Special Price

We're cleaning out surplus stock and offer this selection of pamphlets for $1.00 -- a good opportunity to build up your peace library

AMERICA, RUSSIA AND THE BOMB-Nat.Council Against Conscription
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THE CHURCHES AND THE UN - Walter W. Van Kirk
HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS FOR THE U.S.-Vera M. Dean
THE EMERGENCE OF MODERN EGYPT-Badeau, Nolte
PRESS AGENTS OF THE PENTAGON-John M. Swomley
WHAT CAN UNITE THE WORLD?-Kathleen W.MacArthur
WHAT FOLLOWS THE ARMS RACE?-D. F. Fleming
THE INSTITUTIONALIZING OF PEACE-John F. Dulles

G. I. or C.O? New Publications to Help the Draftage Person. .

WHAT ABOUT WAR?- a 19-page pamphlet from the American Baptist Ministry to Service Personnel. 35¢ each; 25 for $7.50.

THE DRAFT LAW AND YOUR CHOICES- a leaflet from the Friends Peace Committee. Single copy free, $3.00 per hundred.

THE VALLEY OF DECISION About Military Training A new Methodist leaflet. Single copy free; 25¢ for 12.

if You Have Not Seen

WHY CHRISTIANS ARE CONCERNED FOR FOREIGN AID, a four-page leaflet published by the National Council of Churches,
send for a copy -- 5¢ each, 100 for $2.00.

LETTERS TO CONGRESS ON CONTINUING THE FOREIGN AID APPROPRIATION ARE NEEDED. HAVE YOU WRITTEN YET?

From the British White Paper on defense, April 4, 1957, which announced a reduction in the British armed forces from 690,000 to 375,00 by the end of 1962, and the abolishment of compulsory military service by the end of 1960:

"It must be frankly recognized that there is at present no means of providing adequate protection of this country against the consequences of an attack with nuclear weapons. Though, in the event of war, the fighter aircraft of the Royal Air Force would unquestionably be able to take a heavy toll of enemy bombers, a proportion would inevitably get through. Even if it were only a dozen, they could with megaton bombs inflict widespread devastation. This makes it more than ever clear that the overriding consideration in all military planning must be to prevent war rather than to prepare for it."